

(57) Abstract

The invention relates to methods and kits for propagating target nucleic acid in the form of double stranded RNA. This invention relates in particular to a method for mass production 5 of dsRNA. The method comprises that a target nucleic acid is provided in a form replicable by an RNA-dependent RNA polymerase in a living cell, said replicable form of the target nucleic acid is contacted with said polymerase under conditions sufficient for template-directed RNA synthesis, wherein one of the reaction products is necessarily double-stranded (ds) RNA and said dsRNA products are recovered in a sufficiently pure 10 form. The dsRNA products can be used in various applications, for example in gene silencing.